

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SCCT-02 SAM-01 SAB-01 AID-20

IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 DRC-01 /141 W
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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3239

INFO AMEMBSSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBSSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSLEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4109

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS, XF

SUBJECT: GOI RE-AFFIRMS WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE
WITH JORDAN

REF: TEL AVIV 4079

1. SUMMARY ISRAELI CABINET JULY 21 AFFIRMED ITS READINESS
TO WORK TOWARD PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH JORDAN WHILE REJECTING
MINORITY PROPOSAL ENVISAGING NEGOTIATIONS WITH JORDAN AND
PALESTINIAN FACTIONS RECOGNIZING ISRAEL AND ITS INDEPENDENCE.
LATEST FORMULATION DOES NOT BREAK ANY NEW GROUND BUT
CONCEIVABLY COULD SET STAGE, IN CONJUNCTION WITH HUSSEIN-SADAT
COMMUNIQUE, FOR JORDAN-ISRAEL NEGOTIATIONS. ISSUES OF TIMING,
FORUM AND SUBSTANCE REMAINS OPEN, INCLUDING QUESTION OF WHETHER
NEXT STAGE OF
NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE WITH EGYPT OR WITH JORDAN. END SUMMARY.
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2. AT CONCLUSION OF SIX HOUR CABINET DISCUSSIONS JULY 21 ON ISRAELI APPROACH TO PALESTINIAN -JORDANIAN ISSUE, GOI ISSUED FOLLOING STATEMENT REPORTEDLY DRAFTED BY PM RABIN HIMSELF.

3. BEGIN TEXT. ISRAEL WILL CONTINUE TO STRIVE FOR PEACE AGREEMENTS WITH ARAB STATES WITHIN DEFENSIBLE BORDERS TO BE ACHIEVED THROUGH NEGOTIAION WITHOUT PRIOR CONDITIONS.

4. THE GOVERNMENT WILL WORK TOWARDS NEGOTIAIONS FOR A PEACE AGEEMENT WITH JORDAN.

5. THE PEACE WILL BE FOUNDED ON THE EXISTANCE OF TWO INDEPENDENT STATES ONLY-- ISRAEL WITH UNITED JEURSALEM AS HE CAPITAL AND A JORDANIAN-PALESTININ ARAB STATE EAST OF ISRAEL WITHIN BORDERS TO BE DETERMINED IN NEGOTIAIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND JORDAN. THIS STATE WILL PROVIDE FOR EXPRESSION OF IDENTITY OF THE JORDANIANS AND THE PALESTINIANS, IN PEACE AND GOOD-NEIGHBORLINESS WITH ISRAEL.

6. THE CABINET ENDORSES THE PRIME MINISTER'S STATEMENT OF JUNE 3, 1974, IN THE KNESSET, THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL WILL NOT CONDUCT NEGOTIAIONS WITH TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS WHOSE AIM IS THE DESTRUCTION OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL. END TEXT.

7. LATEST FORMULATION OF GOI INTENETION TO NEGOTIATE ONLY ON STATE-TO-STATE BASIS, AND NOT WITH PALESTINAIN ORGAINZATIONS IS RE-STATEMENT OF POSITION SET FORTH IN LABOR PARTY'S FOURTEEN POINTS OF NOVEMBER 1973(TEL AVIV 9619) AND AS NOTED ABOVE, IN RABIN' OPENING SPEECH TO KNESSET AS PRIMINE MINISTER (TEL AVIV 2995). SLE NEW ELEMENT IS STATEMENT THAT GOI " WILL WORK TOWARDS" NEGOTIATIONS WITH JORDAN. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO INICATION IN COMMUNQUE THAT GOI HAS REACHED ANY DECISION ON WHETHER NEXT STAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS OUGHT TO BE WITH EGYPT OR JORDAN, AND ISSUE PRESUMABLY REMAINS OPEN.

8. AFTER LENGTHY DEBATE, CABINET VOTED DOWN (11-5) MINORITY PROPOSAL PUT FORWARD BY MAPAM MINISTER SHEMTOV AND INDEPENDENT LIBERAL MINISTER KOL, ACCORDING TO WHICH "ISRAEL WILL CONDUCT NEGOTIATIONS WITH JORDAN AND WITH PALESTINIAN FACOTRS WHICH RECOGNIZE ISRAEL AND ITS INDEPENDENCE, AND WHICH

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ARE READY TO REACH AGREEMENTS FOR LASTING PEACE WITH ISRAEL, ON THE BASIS OF AGREED AND SECURE BORDERS." MINORITY PROPOSAL WAS SUPPORTED BY HAUSNER(ILP), ROSEN(MAPAM) AND OFER(LABOR), WHILE ALLON ABSTAINED.

9. ACCORDING TO PRESS, SHEMTOV-KOL PROPOSAL WAS INTENDED TO EXPRESS MORE POSITIVE ATTITUDE TO ISSUE OF POSSIBLE NEGOTIATIONS WITH PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS, WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT ITS

STIPULATED CONDITIONS WERE UTOPIAN. OPPONENTS OF THIS APPROACH, LED BY RABIN, WANTED TO MAKE IT CRYSTAL CLEAR THAT ISRAEL WOULD NOT CONDUCT SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS WITH PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS. GOI POSITION HOWEVER DOES NOT BAR INCLUSION OF PALESTINIANS IN JORDANIAN DELEGATION TO GENEVA CONFERENCE OR OTHER FORUM.

10. HAARETZ(GOLAN) NOTES THAT CABINET WAS DIVIDED INTO THREE GROUPS ON APPROACH TO PALESTINIAN ISSUE: A) RABIN, PERES, HILLEL, YACOBI, YADLIN AND ZADOK REJECTED OUTRIGHT ANY NEGOTIATIONS WITH PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS AND HELD FIRMLY TO PRINCIPLE OF NEGOTIATIONS ONLY ON STATE-TO-STATE BASIS; B) ALLON YARIV, AND ALONI WANTED TO EMPHASIZE RECOGNITION OF PALESTINIAN PROBLEM AND NEED FOR ENCOURAGEMENT OF WEST BANK LEADERSHIP, WHILE ALSO REJECTING SEPARATE NEGOTIATIONS WITH PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS AND C) SHEMTOV-KOL POSITION NOTED ABOVE.

11. MOST EDITORIAL COMMENT NOTES THAT CABINET HAS HELD TO ESTABLISHED POLICY RESISTING "POPULAR AND AMERICAN PRESSURES" FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS AND LEFT CABINET DOVES IN MINORITY. BEN-PORAT (YEDYOT AHARONOT) STATES THAT OMISSION OF ANY REFERENCE TO EGYPT GIVES NEW IMPORTANCE TO NEGOTIATIONS WITH JORDAN. HARDLINE RELIGIOUS-ORIENTED HATZOFE FINDS ENTIRE CABINET TO BE DEFEATIST, PREPARED TO MAKE "MAJOR CONCESSIONS" TO JORDAN WITH EQUAL DISREGARD FOR HISTORICAL AND RELIGIOUS RIGHTS.

12. COMMENT DIFFERING EMPHASIS OF CABINET MINISTERS SEEM LESS IMPORTANT THAN BASIC CONSENSUS AFFIRMING A) READINESS TO MOVE AHEAD WITH JORDAN, B) REFUSAL TO COUNTENANCE THIRD STATE BETWEEN JORDAN AND ISRAEL, AND C) REJECTION OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH TERRORISTS ORGANIZATIONS
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WHICH AIM AT DESTRUCTION OF ISRAEL. TAKEN IN CONJUNCTION WITH SADAT-HUSSEIN COMMUNIQUE, LATEST GOI POSITION COULD CONCEIVABLE SET STAGE FOR GOI-GOJ NEGOTIATIONS. KEY ISSUES OF TIMING, FORUM AND SUBSTANCE REMAIN OPEN, ALTHOUGH PRESS NOTES THAT CABINET IS OPPOSED TO A "DISENGAGEMENT" NEGOTIATION. IT SEEMS CLEAR, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF HARSH HATZOFE REACTION, THAT ABSENCE OF NATIONAL RELIGIOUS PARTY FROM GOVERNMENT HAS INDEED MADE IT POSSIBLE FOR GOI TO CONTEMPLATE OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH JORDAN, INVOLVING EVENTUAL TERRITORIAL CONCESSIONS ON WEST BANK.
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